

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 135963
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RWBAKER:CJ
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST
S -AHOUGHTON
S/S-ORCASTRODALE
AF-RMMOOSE

-----007077 271738Z /41

P R 271724Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS A
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T STATE 135963

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SO, MASS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MAY 24 BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH
SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SECRETARY MET WITH SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER ABDURAHMAN JAMA BARRE (ACCOMPANIED BY SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO US ADDOU AND FONOFF AFRICA DIVISION DIRECTOR MUSA FARAH) IN NEW YORK MAY 24 DURING UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. CONVERSATION FOCUSSED EXCLUSIVELY ON SITUATION IN THE HORN AND US-SOMALI DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.

2. ABDURAHMAN'S PRESENTATION STRESSED SOVIET MENACE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF SOMALIA. HE STATED SOVIETS (AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 135963

CUBANS) WERE BUILDING UP FORCES IN THE OGADEN, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AIRSTRIPS WITH ALUMINUM RUNWAYS WHICH COULD BE USED IN AN INVASION OF SOMALIA. HE SAID THERE WERE 10-12,000 CUBAN TROOPS IN ADEN, INCLUDING UNITS LOCATED AT THE ADEN/SAUDI ARABIA/OMAN BORDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESTABILIZING OMAN. HE SAID SOVIETS WERE BUILDING LARGE MILITARY BASE IN SOCOTRA, AND WERE INVOLVED IN TRAIN-

ING OF MILITIA UNITS IN YEMEN. THEY WERE ALSO INFILTRATING MILITARY AND KBG AGENTS INTO KENYA IN THE GUISE OF DOCTORS

AND TEACHERS TO SUBVERT THAT COUNTRY AS ITS SUCCESSION CRISIS LOOMS, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF KENYAN ANTI-SOMALI AGITATION IN THE PROCESS. HE DESCRIBED SOVIET MASTER PLAN AS BEING TO MOVE FROM ETHIOPIA, NOW A "SOVIET SATELLITE", THROUGH SOMALIA TO KENYA, UGANDA, ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE ASSERTED THAT SOMALIA, PREOCCUPIED WITH CARING FOR 500,000 OGADENI REFUGEES, HAD NO DEFENSE AGAINST THE THREAT OF SOVIET AND CUBAN INVASION AND NEEDED BOTH MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND HELP IN DEFENSE PLANNING.

3. ABDURAHMAN ALSO SPOKE OF THE FEARS MANY AFRICANS HAVE THAT SINCE NO COUNTRY WILL STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS, THEY MUST NOT GIVE OFFENSE TO THE USSR. WHEN ASKED IF RECENT EVENTS IN ZAIRE HAD NOT ALTERED THIS PERCEPTION SOMEWHAT, HE FIRST SAID THAT THE SHABA EVENTS WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS AN ADDITIONAL PRETEXT FOR MISCHIEF IN AFRICA, BUT FINALLY ADMITTED THAT THEY MAY HAVE GIVEN GROUNDS FOR REASSURANCE TO SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT SOMALIA PLANS TO PRESS THE CASE AGAINST THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS, ESPECIALLY TO SEEK CUBA'S EXPULSION FROM THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AND THAT SOMALIA NEEDED (UNSPECIFIED US SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 135963

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE SECRETARY, ABDURAHMAN EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF A MULTINATIONAL REGIONAL FORCE IN AFRICA. HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED THAT SUCH A REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT WAS A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY IN EAST AFRICA OR WITHIN THE OAU CONTEXT. IN ANY EVENT, HE ASSERTED THAT THE US SHOULD IN GENERAL HELP AFRICANS TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES WITHOUT DIRECT US INVOLVEMENT (WHICH MIGHT RISK GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION).

5. THE SECRETARY CONFIRMED US WILLINGNESS TO SEND A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA, WHICH ABDURAHMAN SAID SOMALIA WAS ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE. THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM THE US WOULD HAVE WITH PROCEEDING WITH A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA IF THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WERE TO CONTINUE TO GIVE MILITARY HELP TO THE OGADEN INSURGENTS. ABDURAHMAN GAVE FIRM ASSURANCES THAT SOMALIA WAS GIVING ONLY MORAL BUT NOT MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS WHO HE SAID WERE, IN ANY CASE, IN NO NEED OF ARMS HAVING CAPTURED SO MANY FROM THE ETHIOPIANS. AMBASSADOR ADDOU SAID THAT HE

HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SIAD (IN RESPONSE TO
A LETTER FROM ADDOU REPORTING THAT UNDER SECRETARY
NEWSOM HAD RAISED THIS SAME QUESTION) CATEGORICALLY

DENYING THAT ANY ARMS AT ALL HAD BEEN SENT TO THE
INSURGENTS.

6. THE SECRETARY CLOSED THE MEETING BY EXPLAINING
TO ABDURAHMAN THAT IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE THE
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER
HAD REQUESTED. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE135963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWBAKER:CJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0017
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780510/aaaaaiob.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 172a4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2509541
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MAY 24 BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: MASS, PEPR, US, SO, UR, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (ABDURAHMAN JAMA BARRE)
To: MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/172a4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014